



# PPE Decontamination

As a result of the global ongoing crisis with the coronavirus pandemic, there have been shortages in supplies for personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE decontamination has already been proven to be an effective strategy in times of uncertain outbreaks and can be carried out using different innovations such as hydrogen peroxide vapour, Ultraviolet-C (UV-C) light and heat.

## The Risk of Infection

Health workers in general are at risk of acquiring infections if they are not wearing appropriate PPE. The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as other global health organisations, has urged healthcare establishments to conserve the use of personal protective equipment and when necessary, decontaminate already used PPE to be reused again. As a result of supply shortages, health workers are being sent to work closely with patients without using PPE, which can pose higher risks for them, especially when there is a highly contagious virus. Not wearing appropriately decontaminated PPE possesses more risks to the patients as well and eventually lead to higher number of unwanted cases of coronavirus and other airborne pathogens.

## The Most Susceptible

Surgeons, nurses and healthcare workers in general are the most susceptible because they are interacting with the patients and carriers of the disease on a daily basis. Therefore, it is very crucial for them to wear appropriately decontaminated masks and gowns to reduce the risk of infection. Also, these health-workers can serve as carriers of the disease and contribute to cross-infection among different departments within the hospital. Therefore, it is very crucial and vital to wear new or properly decontaminated PPE.



## Did you know...



FFRS CAN WITHSTAND  
UP TO **20 CYCLES** OF  
VPHP DECONTAMINATION  
WITHOUT COMPROMISING  
PERFORMANCE OR  
DEGRADING<sup>1</sup>

- Hydrogen peroxide vapour and Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation have been reported as suitable choices for disinfection of items contaminated with SARS-CoV-2<sup>2</sup>
- HPV and UV germicidal irradiation are very effective at eliminating pathogens from FFP3 masks without significantly influencing appearance, integrity and function of these masks<sup>1</sup>



Sources: See overleaf.

## How Inivos Can Help

Our PPE decontamination service can be delivered as both an on-call service for emergency situations, a specific area or a project or as a scheduled managed service contract.

This enables us to reduce the risk of a patient acquiring and infection whilst in hospital, by reducing the number of reservoirs available for dangerous pathogens to multiply in.

## Our Service

We manage our service from end-to-end to ensure all stakeholders are aligned through clear communication of a complete project plan. Our teams of qualified technicians are able to operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure rapid turnaround and minimum disturbance or disruption to the clinical schedule. This involves:

### Pre-Risk Assessment

Our technicians, upon arrival to your premises, will survey your site and ensure the area is disinfected prior to performing PPE decontamination in accordance with our policies and guidelines. Our technicians ensure safety measures are met before proceeding to the decontamination phase. Where appropriate signs are placed to prevent workers and others from entering the decontamination chamber.

## Decontamination Phase

Prior to performing the decontamination phase, we liaise with laboratory personnel to plan at least one hour or more of uninterrupted time to complete a thorough decontamination routine using our high-tech devices. The used PPE would then be placed in a closed large space or room where it can be successfully decontaminated without possessing a risk on the technicians and health-workers. This chamber is sealed completely to avoid exposure to Hydrogen Peroxide Vapour or UVC light, depending on which decontamination machine is used.

## Validation

At the end of each decontamination cycle, a report is produced outlining the success of these cycles and that these PPE are decontaminated successfully. Any waste will be disposed of in a safe and legally compliant manner to prevent cross contamination and will follow infection prevention and control guidance as set out by Public Health England. All waste will be handled as clinical waste and will be correctly segregated, transported and disposed of in line with clinical waste regulations. In addition to this service, we offer whole room and other means of decontamination, to ensure no residues of pathogens are left in the workplace as a result of decontaminating PPE.

## Our Approach

As experts in understanding the importance of infection prevention and control, we pay particular attention to our methods of work to ensure the process is effective by controlling the risk of cross contamination between areas.

Our knowledge and experience mean we can provide a fully validated decontamination service on all PPE.

## Why Inivos?

Not only are we an established and trusted name in healthcare, with facilities and hospitals around the world relying on our advanced hydrogen peroxide vapour and UV-C light disinfection robots, we also offer a **level of expertise second to none**, and **unique services**, including call-outs, pre-cleaning assessments and decontamination.



Multiple areas included



Evidence based processes



Validated assurance



Dedicated project management

Helping you provide patient-ready spaces with on-call decontamination and managed services



Our Inivos services are easy to arrange and tailored to your requirements:

Call **0845 270 6690** or email **customerservices@inivos.com**